

## Sexting Flirting or Felony

Alison Feigh, *Director of Jacob Wetterling Resource Center* | Spring 2021



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## Thank You for Making Time

It's a kid's job to be a kid...

...and a grown-up's job to keep kids safe!



Credit: Jennifer Arango, Unsplash



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## Access

- **92%** of teens (13-17 years old) go online **daily**
- **24%** of teens are online "almost **constantly**"
- **73%** of teens have access to a **smart phone**
- **12%** of teens do **not** own a cell phone
- **81%** of teens have access to a **game console**

Data periods 2014-2015, Pew Research Center  
Teen Relationship Study



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## Who Is Defining Healthy?

- **85%** of teen daters expect to hear from their significant other at least **once a day**
- **11%** expect to hear from their significant other **hourly**
- Many teens expressed a desire (and in many cases, an **expectation**) that they hear from their significant other on a regular basis

Lenhart, A., Smith, A., and Anderson, M. "Teens, Technology and Romantic Relationships." Pew Research Center, October 2015. [www.pewinternet.org/2015/10/01/teens-technology-and-romantic-relationships](http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/10/01/teens-technology-and-romantic-relationships)



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## New Challenges

**15% of girls** and **7% of boys** experienced pressure from dating partners to send sexual photos, including:

- threatening partners if they did not send photos,
- sending partners unwanted sexual photos, or
- making other unwanted communications about sex.

Zweig JM, et al. The rate of cyber dating abuse among teens and how it relates to other forms of teen dating violence. J Youth Adolesc 2013; 42: 1063-77. Survey of 3,745 dating high school and middle school students



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## Sexting Definitions

- **Sexting:** The act of sending sexual messages, pictures, or videos via a mobile device
  - Merriam-Webster, 2012
  - National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2011
- **Youth-produced Sexual Images:** Sexual images created by minors under the age of 17 that could be considered child pornography under the law
  - Lounsbury, Mitchell, & Finkelhor, 2011; Wolak, Finkelhor, & Mitchell, 2012

"Sexting—It's in the Dictionary." NASN School Nurse. Beth Matthey and Gail Matthey Dilberto. 2013 28: 94. originally published online 24 January 2013



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## Sexting Definitions



- Some studies refer to sexting as "**sexually suggestive**" images
- Others ask about "**nude or semi-nude**" material
- Is **receiving** a sexually based image the same as sending one?

"Sexting: Young Women's and Men's Views on Its Nature and Origins." Shelley Walker, M.P.H.C., Lena Sancil Ph.D., and Meredith Temple-Smith, D.H.Sc. Journal of Adolescent Health, 2013.



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## Teenage Brain

The teenage brain has not yet fully connected the frontal lobes. Recent studies show that neural insulation isn't complete until the **mid-20s**.

"It's the part of the brain that says:  
**'Is this a good idea?'** What is the consequence of this action? It's not that they don't have a frontal lobe. And they can use it. But they're going to **access it more slowly.**"

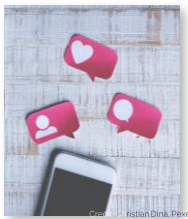
—Dr. Frances Jensen, neurologist

[www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124119468](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124119468)



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## Temptation



"Teenagers' tendency toward exhibitionism and narcissism, their desire for intimacy in relationships, their desire and preoccupation with sexual exploration, and the hope of creating their identities as individuals who are attractive and desired may **make them more vulnerable to the allure of sexting.**"—Julie M. Sadhu, MD,

"Sexting: The Impact of a Cultural Phenomenon on Psychiatric Practice." Academic Psychiatry 36:1 (2012)



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## Teenage Brain

- Not fully developed until around **age 25**
- Adult and teen brains work differently
- For a teen, the connections between the emotional part of the brain and the decision-making center are still developing
- When teens experience overwhelming emotional input, they can't always explain later what they were thinking (feeling response vs. a thinking one)

Sather, Rita, RN and Shelat, Amit, MD. [www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeID=1&ContentID=3051](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeID=1&ContentID=3051)



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## Spectrum of Prevention



<http://preventioninstitute.org>



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## Prevention: Big Picture



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## Protecting Children



"It's not clear that the Internet has placed children at greater risk of sexual exploitation. More of crime, and of social life in general, is moving online. **But that increase does not necessarily translate to increased risk.** In fact, the Internet may increase the likelihood of some of these criminal acts being detected—their **messages can be traced.**"

—David Finkelhor, Director of the Crimes against Children Research Center

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2014/11/12-year-olds-online-life-brings-an-abductor-to-her-doorstep/>



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## Forcible Abductions

"The scenario that people tend to imagine, based on the newspaper stories and some of the police accounts, is that the danger to children is that they give information to someone acting as another kid and get abducted. Those are extremely rare—we estimate that **forcible abduction took place in only five percent** of these Internet-related sex crimes."

- —David Finkelhor, Director of the Crimes against Children Research Center

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2014/11/12-year-olds-online-life-brings-an-abductor-to-her-doorstep/>



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## What Is a Compliant Victim?

- Compliant child victims:

"...cooperate in or 'consent' to their sexual victimization. Because **children cannot legally consent** to having sex with adults, this compliance should not in any way alter the fact that they are victims of serious crimes."

—Ken Lanning, FBI (retired)

Ken Lanning, FBI (retired). "A Law Enforcement Perspective on Compliant Child Victim," 14(2) APSAC Advisor (Spring 2002)



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## Compliant Victims

### Society's lack of understanding causes:

- Compliant victims to fail to disclose victimization, and even deny victimization
- Incomplete, inaccurate disclosures
- Shame, embarrassment, and guilt
- Offenders to exploit numerous victims
- Unrealistic prevention programs

Ken Lanning, FBI (retired). "A Law Enforcement Perspective on Compliant Child Victim," 14(2) APSAC Advisor (Spring 2002)



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## Interviewing Compliant Victims

- **Be aware of biases.**
- Suggestibility is an issue if you suggest the answers (must have been forced, right?)
- What if compliant victim was engaged in drug usage or theft (consult team, perhaps file a child protection and not delinquency action)
- Trafficked child: must address concerns about delinquency charges, being returned to parents, fear of pimp, etc.

Rita Farrell, Zero Abuse Project Child Forensic Interviewer and Director of ChildFirst, 2014



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## Transcript—Jane Doe, 12yo pt 1

[JD] I'm leaving

[Other user] wat do u mean

[JD] I'm leaving this Friday and I'm going to live with some guy

[Other user]Oh =(

[JD] I'm running away with him

[Other user]Your just going 2 leave me like that

[JD] It's for the best babe

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2014/11/12-year-olds-online-life-brings-an-abductor-to-her-doorstep/>



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## Transcript Jane Doe Pt 2

[Other user] WAT BEST!!!, y said that u will never leave my side and I will never leave your, now look your leaving me

[JD] I love you

[Other user] I u do love me y are u leaveing

[JD] Im not going but babe Im scared he said he was gonna kidnap me



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## Transcript Jane Doe pt 3

[Other user] ok and but he doesn't know where you live

[JD] um yea I told him where I live

[Other user] y ? \* put arm around u\*

[JD] he know my address

[Other user] did u tell your mom?

[JD] no because I used kik and I'm not supposed to have it so Id get in big trouble.



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## Start Young—Two Questions

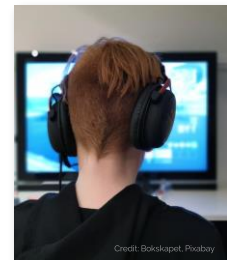
1. Are they asking me to break my rules?
2. Are they giving me an uh-oh feeling?



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## Vulnerable Youth

"...the similarities between online and offline vulnerability factors is quite striking, suggesting that **youths at risk for real-world sexual solicitations** are the same youths who **may be more at risk online as well.**"



Sato, Michael. Internet Sex Offenders. American Psychological Association. 2013



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## Teenagers, Sexting, and the Law

- **27.4%** of teens have **received** a sext
- **14.8%** of teens report **sending** a sext
- Numbers did **not** vary with **gender**, but did vary **by age**
- **27** states have passed laws that **decriminalize** sexting
- When sexting is **consensual** and doesn't involve involuntary forwarding, coercion, extortion, or adults, sexting **does not warrant law enforcement** involvement. Better addressed at home, school, or by healthcare professionals

"Teenagers, Sexting and the Law." May 2019 Pediatrics. Vol. 143, Issue 5. Strasburger, Zimmerman, Temple and Madigan. Review of 39 studies with 110,380 subjects.



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## Youth Sexting Study

- More than half of respondents (**54%**) **reported sexting** as minors. However, only 28% sent photographic sexts
- The majority of respondents (**61%**) **were not aware** that sending texts could be considered **child pornography**
- **59%** reported that knowledge of legal consequences "would have" or "probably would have" **deterred** them from sexting

Youth Sexting: Prevalence Rates, Driving Motivations, and the Deterrent Effect of Legal Consequences." June 2014. <http://drexel.edu/now/archive/2014/June/Sexting-Study/#sthash.AOZoxXGv.dpuf>



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## Youth Sexting Study

- Participants generally reported experiencing **few negative social or legal consequences** as a result of sexting
- But **71%** reported knowing **other teens** who experienced negative consequences
- Only 2%** reported that they **notified a parent** or teacher about a sext that they received

Youth Sexting: Prevalence Rates, Driving Motivations, and the Deterrent Effect of Legal Consequences." June 2014. <http://drexel.edu/now/archive/2014/June/Sexting-Study/#sthashAOZoxGv.dpuf>



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## Youth Sexting Study

In a survey of 618 18-year-olds:

- 30%** of subjects said they had **sent** nude pictures at some point during the four years of high school
- 45%** said that they had **received** such pictures on their cell phones

Low Risk Associated with Most Teenage Sexting: A Study of 617 18-Year-Olds (2012)  
Dr. Elizabeth Englander, Bridgewater State University.  
[http://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=marc\\_reports](http://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=marc_reports)



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## Youth Sexting Study

- The most important motivation for sexting was **pressure or coercion**
- 96%** of subjects who received a nude picture reported that they **recognized** the person in the picture
- None** of the youth in the study had **told an adult** about the photo that they had received

Low Risk Associated with Most Teenage Sexting: A Study of 617 18-Year-Olds (2012)  
Dr. Elizabeth Englander, Bridgewater State University.  
[http://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=marc\\_reports](http://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=marc_reports)



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## Youth Sexting Study

- Being pressured into sexting happened both **within a dating relationship**, or from one wanting to be in a dating relationship with the other
- Most common reasons for sexting: **wanting to attract** and wanting to be attractive
- 92%** of the teens who were **not pressured** into sexting reported no problems following sexting
- But, **only 68%** of teens **pressured** into sexting reported no problems following sexting

Low Risk Associated with Most Teenage Sexting: A Study of 617 18-Year-Olds (2012)  
Dr. Elizabeth Englander, Bridgewater State University.  
[http://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=marc\\_reports](http://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=marc_reports)



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## Sexting and the Law

Sexting provides a legal challenge, as courts and lawmakers struggle to determine **what kind of punishment should fit the crime** given that sending out sexual images of children is illegal.



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## Sexting and the Law

- Federal Law (18 U.S.C. §2256) defines **child pornography** as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor.
- Visual depictions include photographs, videos, digital, or computer generated images **indistinguishable from an actual minor**, and images created, adapted, or modified, but appear to depict an identifiable, actual minor.

[www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/citizens-guide-us-federal-law-child-pornography](http://www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/citizens-guide-us-federal-law-child-pornography)



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## Sexting and the Law

- Undeveloped film, undeveloped videotape, and electronically stored data that **can be converted** into a visual image of child pornography are also deemed illegal visual depictions under federal law.
- Notably, the legal definition of sexually explicit conduct **does not require that an image depict a child engaging in sexual activity**. A picture of a naked child may constitute illegal child pornography if it is sufficiently sexually suggestive.

[www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/citizens-guide-us-federal-law-child-pornography](http://www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/citizens-guide-us-federal-law-child-pornography)



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## Sexting and the Law

- If a minor engages in sexually explicit conduct on their own cell device and **forwards** the image on **to their peers**, it may be deemed child pornography.
- Even though states have different consent ages, **Federal Law** considers those **under 18** to be children.
- It is **not relevant** what the state's age of consent law is..

[www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/citizens-guide-us-federal-law-child-pornography](http://www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/citizens-guide-us-federal-law-child-pornography)



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## Sexting and the Law

- By 2012, few teenage sexting cases were actually being prosecuted in a criminal court.
  - K. J. Mitchell et al., "Prevalence and Characteristics of Youth Sexting: A National Study," PEDIATRICS 129, no. 1 (December 5, 2011): 13–20. 12
- A 2011 survey of law enforcement found that **18%** of cases involving youth-created pornographic images (with no aggravating circumstances) progressed to the point of an **arrest**.
  - J. Wolak, D. Finkelhor, and K. J. Mitchell, "How Often Are Teens Arrested for Sexting? Data From a National Sample of Police Cases," PEDIATRICS 129, no. 1 (December 5, 2011): 4–12



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## 2013 survey of Prosecutors

- 59%** said that all (37%) or nearly all (22%) of their cases ended with **no charges**
- 21%** said that their cases ended with **charges** filed
  - Malicious intent/bullying/coercion or harassment (36%)
  - Distribution (25%)
  - Large age difference involved (22%)
  - Graphic nature of the images (9%)

Sexting: When are State Prosecutors Deciding to Prosecute? The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3), January 2013, survey of 236 prosecutors. [www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV294\\_Walsh\\_Sexting%20&%20prosecution\\_2-6-13.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV294_Walsh_Sexting%20&%20prosecution_2-6-13.pdf)



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## Rice County, MN case

“...This court cannot see how subjecting [the girl] to registering as a sexual offender would protect her or teach her anything but that the justice system is cruel and unjust. The idea that heavy-handed enforcement of pornography laws is going to help these misguided, struggling teens is itself absurd.”

- Judge John Cajacob regarding a 2014 case where a girl was charged w felony distribution after sending a revealing selfie to a boy at school. The judge dismissed the charge in 2018.



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## Sextortion

- Approximately 5% of students reported that they had been the **victim of sextortion**
- 3% admitted to **threatening others** who had shared an image with them in confidence
- Males and non-heterosexual youth were more likely to be targeted, and males were more likely to target others

Sextortion Among Adolescents: Results From a National Survey of U.S. Youth. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1079063218800469>



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## Sextortion – THORN and UNH data

- For nearly half of the participants, the perpetrator followed through on his or her threats (2015)
- Many victims (1/3 of participants) are staying silent because of feelings of shame and embarrassment (2015).
- Nearly half (47%) of participants in the 2015 survey reported their sextortion began before they turned 18.
- More than half of participants (52%) reported having a prior romantic relationship with the offender (2017).

THORN and Crimes Against Children Research Center at UNH surveyed 1631 victims who had experienced sextortion in 2015 and then did a second wave of research of 2097 victims in 2017.  
[https://www.thorn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Sextortion\\_Wave2Report\\_121919.pdf](https://www.thorn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Sextortion_Wave2Report_121919.pdf)



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## Cybertipline Tracking

"Since the CyberTipline began tracking sextortion in October 2013, these reports have been on the rise. In just the first two full years, between 2014 and 2015, there was a 90% increase in the total number of reports; a pattern that has continued, with sextortion reports up 150% within the first several months of 2016 compared to the number of reports in that same time-frame in 2014." – NCMEC Sextortion Fact Sheet, 2016

[www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/ncmec-analysis/sextortionfactsheet.pdf](http://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/ncmec-analysis/sextortionfactsheet.pdf)



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## Sexting and the Law



Credit: nashia - 500px Pixabay

- Consequences for the little things to help prevent bigger things
  - School discussions
  - Diversion
  - Stepping away patterns
  - Public vs private
  - Examine online footprint



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## Reasons for Sexting

- Risk Taking
- Fun
- Boredom
- Sexual experimentation
- Long-distance relationships
- "Young women discussed the **expectation** for girls to produce and distribute sexually explicit images, **simply as a result of having viewed sexted images** of girls they know."

"Sexting: Young Women's and Men's Views on Its Nature and Origins." Shelley Walker, M.P.H.C., Lena Sancil, Ph.D., and Meredith Temple-Smith, D.H.Sc. Journal of Adolescent Health, 2013.



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## Reasons for Sexting: Example

"The boy asks the girl to send him some images or videos or something...so she does that and **he keeps them forever**. you know, in case of blackmail or whatever he wants to do with the images. Then they do have a fight...or they break up or something and then he thinks, 'well, she's no good anymore and **let's embarrass her** in the best way I can,' and sends it out."

—B6, male, 17

"Sexting: Young Women's and Men's Views on Its Nature and Origins." Shelley Walker, M.P.H.C., Lena Sancil, Ph.D., and Meredith Temple-Smith, D.H.Sc. Journal of Adolescent Health, 2013.



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## Where Are They Getting the Idea?

- Adult sexting scandals
- Sexual images
- How does one get attention?
- Do we talk about consent?



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## Gender Dynamics

- Not gender neutral, but is influenced by gender dynamics
- Many young people are involved in the activity due to pressure



Credit: DtheDelinquent, Pixabay

"Sexting: Young Women's and Men's Views on Its Nature and Origins." Shelley Walker, M.P.H.C., Lena Sancil, Ph.D., and Meredith Temple-Smith, D.H.Sc. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 2013.



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## Digging In

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"If indeed young people are feeling pressure to be involved in sexting, the answer is not in education about the seriousness of legal implications. Rather opportunities should be created for young people to engage in discussions that **challenge power dynamics** in intimate partner relationships, by learning about sex and relationships from within a **sexual ethics framework**..."

"Sexting: Young Women's and Men's Views on Its Nature and Origins." Shelley Walker, M.P.H.C., Lena Sancil, Ph.D., and Meredith Temple-Smith, D.H.Sc. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 2013.



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## Coercive Behaviors

"In addition to sending photographs in the hope of **gaining a relationship**, young women also reported sending photographs as a result of **coercion** by male counterparts in the form of **persistent requests, anger, and threats**."

"Young women attempted to navigate young men's coercive behaviors yet **frequently resorted to compliance**. **Alternative tactics were largely absent**... indicating that young women do not have tools to successfully navigate the challenges they face."

What Should I Do? Young Women's Reported Dilemmas with Nude Photographs. Sara E. Thomas, Northwestern University, Sexuality Research and Social Policy, Dec 6, 2017, analyzed 462 stories of girls navigating sexting requests



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## Coercion

- 112 young women described very **coercive behavior** by young men trying to obtain photographs:
  - Pressuring, threatening, getting angry, or cutting off contact with them
  - Example: "my bf preaused me for hours to send him pictures of me naked. now he threatens to send them out if I dont send him more really nasty pics. the stuff i have to do is un-believable. im 14."
- 81 girls reported **they didn't know what to do**

What Should I Do? Young Women's Reported Dilemmas with Nude Photographs. Sara E. Thomas, Northwestern University, Sexuality Research and Social Policy, Dec 6, 2017,



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## Complications of "No"

- 31% of girls **refused requests** for photos to varying degrees of success
- 78.9% who attempted to refuse requests for photos **faced consequences** for saying "no"
- Due to these consequences some young women ended up sending pictures

What Should I Do? Young Women's Reported Dilemmas with Nude Photographs. Sara E. Thomas, Northwestern University, Sexuality Research and Social Policy, Dec 6, 2017, analyzed 462 stories of girls navigating sexting requests



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## Complications of No

*"In seventh grade, one of my guy friends that id liked since elementary school had been asking me to send him topless pictures. I'd refused for a few weeks and then he'd said to me 'that's a shame. was just starting to like you' So stupidly i sent them."*

What Should I Do? Young Women's Reported Dilemmas with Nude Photographs. Sara E. Thomas, Northwestern University, Sexuality Research and Social Policy, Dec 6, 2017, analyzed 462 stories of girls navigating sexting requests



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## Coercion and Sexting

- 1/5 of the sample indicated that they had engaged in sexting **when they did not want to**
- Trauma related to the acts of coercion at the time (and looking back) were **greater for sexting coercion** than physical sex coercion
- More sexting coercion also had more symptoms of anxiety, depression and generalized trauma
- Sexting coercion was related to both physical sex coercion and Intimate Partner Violence

Drouin, M., Ross, J., Tobin, E. (2015). Sexting: A new, digital vehicle for intimate partner aggression? Computers in Human Behavior, 50, 187-204. Sample of 480 undergraduate students



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## Adolescent Coercive Sexting

- Of youth who reported at least one dating or sexual partner in the past 12 months
  - 12% reported coercive sexting victimization
  - 8% acknowledged pressuring a partner to sext.
- Other forms of sexual coercion were significantly associated with perpetration of coercive sexting

Online, Offline, and over the Line: Coercive Sexting among Adolescent Dating Partners. Kermith, Victor, & Smith-Darden. Youth & Society, v50 n7 p891-904 Oct 2018. Sample of 1,235 middle and high school students



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"Offline sexual coercion was significantly associated with sending and being asked for a naked image, as well as receiving a naked image without giving permission. The results suggest that **sexting could function as an online extension of offline forms of sexual coercion.**"

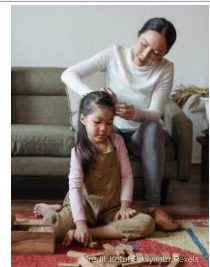
Association between Sexting and Sexual Coercion among Female Adolescents. Choi, Ouytsel and Temple. J Adolesc. 2016 Dec; 53: 164-168. Study of 450 females in SE Texas asked about behaviors after age 14



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## Consent

- Consent isn't just about listening for a "no."
- Consent is **confirming the YES**. Enthusiastic consent.
- "No" is a complete sentence.
- What conversations have you had about consent?



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## NSPCC Study



Credit: Polina Markovitch, Pexels

- Sexting was an **extension of offline forms of physical harassment** often experienced by teenage girls.
- Talk around sexting reflects an experience that is pressurized yet voluntary

Ringrose, Gill, Livingstone, & Harvey. A qualitative study of children, young people and 'sexting': a report prepared for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Focus groups with 35 8th and 10th graders in London school (2012).



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## NSPCC Study

- Threat from peers—focus on known peers
- Sexting is often coercive—**adults must be willing to discuss** sexual matters, sexual bullying, and cyberbullying
- Sexting reveals wider sexual pressures and are culturally specific
- Even younger children are affected—10<sup>th</sup>-graders more mature in ability to cope, 8<sup>th</sup>-graders more worried and upset

Ringrose, Gill, Livingstone, & Harvey. A qualitative study of children, young people and 'sexting': a report prepared for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Focus groups with 35 8th and 10th graders in London school (2012).



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## Who Forms Your Net?



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## Digital Dating Abuse

- Digital dating abuse (DDA) is a **pattern of behaviors** that control, pressure, or threaten a dating partner using a cell phone or the Internet.
- **21% of females** in their collegiate sample had been pressured by their partner "to take a sexually suggestive/nude photo or video."
- DDA seems to have the strongest association with **psychological abuse**, indicating that these may be similar behaviors in different contexts.

Reed, Tolman, & Ward (2016). Snooping and Sexting: Digital Media as a Context for Dating Aggression and Abuse Among College Students. *Violence Against Women*, 22(13), 1556-1576, sample size of 365 college students

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## What Works

- Avoid descriptions of the problem that characterize victims as young children or emphasize violence and deception.
- Be clear about why sex with underage adolescents is wrong.
- **Focus prevention efforts more on adolescents**, less on parents, and on concerns relevant to adolescents, including autonomy, romance, and sex.

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K., Ybarra, M. (2008). Online "Predators" and their Victims: Myths, Realities and Implications for Prevention and Treatment. *American Psychologist*, 63(2), 111-128 (CV163)

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## What Works

- Focus prevention more on interactive aspects of Internet use and less on posting personal information.
- **Educate youth** about criminal behavior and child pornography.
- Develop targeted prevention approaches for the most at risk youth populations.
- Assess for patterns of risky online behavior.

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K., Ybarra, M. (2008). Online "Predators" and their Victims: Myths, Realities and Implications for Prevention and Treatment. *American Psychologist*, 63(2), 111-128 (CV163)

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## Another Layer

- **93% of boys** and **62% of girls** were exposed to online **pornography** during their adolescence.
- Boys were more likely than girls to see the images at an earlier age, see more of the **extreme images** (rape), and view pornography more often.

"If participants in this study are typical of young people, exposure to pornography on the Internet can be described as a normative experience."

Chiara Sabina, Janis Wolak, and David Finkelhor. *CyberPsychology & Behavior*. December 2008, 11(6): 691-693. doi:10.1089/cpb.2007.0179. Graphic of Statistics: [www.onlinemba.com/blog/stats-on-internet-pornography/](http://www.onlinemba.com/blog/stats-on-internet-pornography/)

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## Protecting Children

- Teach them early on about healthy, age-appropriate relationships;
- Help them practice refusal skills; impulse management and emotion control
- Bystander mobilization, making sure their friends help put the brakes on potentially dangerous choices.

—David Finkelhor

"Banning apps won't protect kids from predators," *Washington Post*, 2015/02/12, [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

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## Consent in Education Study

- Found that only **2** of 18 states explicitly mentioned sexual consent in their health education standards
- Analysis suggests that sexual consent is **likely not discussed** in sex education at K–12 schools
- Recommendation: **more explicit inclusion of sexual consent** in health education curricula

Malachi Willis, Kristen N. Jozkowski & Julia Read (2019) Sexual consent in K–12 sex education: an analysis of current health education standards in the United States, Sex Education.



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## Checking in with Parents

**94%** say they have talked with their teen about what is **appropriate** for them to share online, with 40% doing so frequently.

**95%** have talked with their teen about **appropriate content** for them to view online, with 39% doing so frequently.

**92%** have spoken with their teen about their online **behavior toward others**, with 36% doing so frequently.

Pew Research Center  
January 2016  
"Parents, Teens and Digital Monitoring"



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## What Does "Looking" Look Like?

“

More than half of teens (54%) said they'd rather go 7 days without their device than give their parents permission to look through their phone.

WhistleOut partnered up with Lux insights to survey 304 teens about cell phone privacy, safety, and rules. (August 2020).

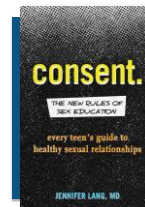


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## Capacity

It isn't a "yes" if a person truly isn't capable of giving it.

- Age
- Ability
- Power
- Alcohol/Drugs



*"If someone doesn't consent to a sexual activity, they do not owe their partner apologies, explanations or excuses."*

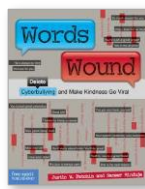


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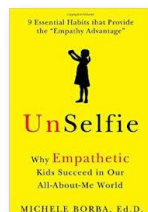
## Books



Barbara Coloroso



Patchin & Hinduja  
wordswound.org



Michele Borba, Ed.D



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## Thank You for Believing

*Everyone has a role in keeping children safe.*

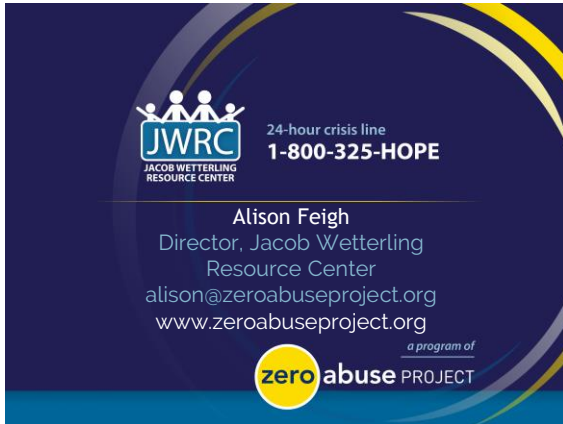
Your investment of \$5, \$10 or \$20 can help us offer this training and build a world **where every child is free from abuse.**



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